



Dear Praying Friends in Europe,

The two men boldly gave testimony. Much to the dismay of the established authorities. And they faced consequences. Sounds familiar? Many believers, lay-persons and clergy, today experience similar situations. But this is not at all a new phenomenon. In Acts 3, we read how Peter and John healed a man, attracting great attention. They seized the opportunity to share the Gospel, only to be jailed overnight by the religious leaders, who were “greatly disturbed” by their message (Acts. 4:1-2).

Yet Peter and John did not cave in. “As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard” (verse 20). The authorities had to let them go, because they “could not decide how to punish them” (verse 21). May God guide us to bring fruit, and to be witnesses of His love.

Legislation used to close down debate and dictate what parents should teach their children

It is not easy to speak the Truth with love. But Christians follow Christ, who did just this. So we, too, have to try – over and over again. However, when laws and international institutions close down debate, Christians, maybe even more than others, have a problem. They cannot be silent about “what the heart is full of.” (Luke 6: 45)

Be it in the privacy of our own home, in the workplace or in society, some views informed by the Christian faith appear to be considered so controversial that they are banned, censored, and forbidden.

A recent report published by a UN independent expert encourages all states to prohibit Christian views on LGBT and Gender issues.[1] The non-binding(!) document also alleges that Christians will use freedom of religion to commit ‘hate speech’, therefore ‘limits’ to freedom of religion are necessary.

In a similar manner, the EU-Commission wants to make ‘hate speech’ a Euro Crime, opening a road to unheard-of censorship. Such laws would sanction speech which contradicts the self-proclaimed values of the EU and thus are more important than the right to freedom of speech. Such laws would target, among others, Christian beliefs about marriage and sexuality.

Basic human rights include freedom of speech and religion. These rights need to be protected and strengthened. Whether in public, at work, or at home in the education of one’s children, speaking about faith and practising it cannot be forbidden.

Nevertheless, one can see more and more that institutions which were founded to protect basic rights now fight against it. The state and its power are being instrumentalised to push an ideological agenda.

Speech, prayer, and education bans play an important role in this fight. Päivi Räsänen, the former Finnish minister of the interior and active member of Parliament, is currently being prosecuted for a



Tweet. In 2019 she criticised her own church for officially sponsoring the Helsinki Pride Event. For quoting a bible verse on the issue she was interrogated and prosecuted. After the first court cleared her from all charges, the general prosecutor appealed the decision. Now Räsänen, who is a devout Christian, has to stand trial again in August.

In the UK, censorship zones ban prayer where some argue it is most needed: In the vicinity of abortion clinics. The new regulation was introduced in March of this year. The goal: Making pro-lifers invisible and criminalising their prayer.

Germany meanwhile clearly violates international human rights laws regarding parental rights and freedom of education. While every family should be free to decide how their children learn and are being educated, Germany limits these choices by banning home-schooling and not admitting an innovative hybrid school. All of these cases are severe attacks on the universal basic rights that everyone should enjoy. The organisation I work for, ADF International, is active in each of the fields around the globe and defends individuals but in this way also the rights of everyone in society for the benefit of all.

I would like to ask you to pray specifically for:

1. Päivi Räsänen in Finland fighting for freedom of speech
2. Anyone banned from praying, helping, or even thinking in Europe.
3. The freedom of education and parental rights to determine the best education for children
4. Freedom of speech and religion to be championed in Europe

[1] “and challenge essentialist conceptions around sexual and gender identities under both the Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB) and sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) frameworks” (d)

Exciting News

We are preparing the next prayer gathering of Europeans United in Prayer in Herrnhut, Germany, in November. We will invite those who have been regularly to our gatherings and will spend time asking God about the future together. We know that changes are coming to our work so we want to listen to His instructions and then do what He says. Some of the participants may need financial support for their travel costs so could you help us with a donation? Please click on the Donate button below, which will take you to the donate options. Or by bank transfer to the details at the bottom.

Thank you!

Additional Prayer Points:-

1. With the passing of the Nature Restoration Law in the European Parliament (Green Deal), pray that everyone learns to be mindful of Europe’s ecosystems.
2. Pray for the peace-keeping role of NATO and give thanks that Turkey is no longer blocking Sweden from joining, thus improving the stability in Northern Europe.

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